

## **FISCAL NOTE**

### **SB 2557 - HB 2554**

February 8, 2006

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires the Department of Correction to award any inmate who successfully receives a GED, high school diploma, college degree, certification in applied science, or a vocational education diploma good time credit of sixty days for each program the inmate completes.

#### **ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Decrease State Expenditures - \$525,400 FY06/07**  
**\$525,400 FY07/08**  
**\$362,400 FY08/09**  
**\$362,400 FY09/10**  
**\$163,100 FY10/11**  
**\$163,100 FY11/12**  
**\$235,500 FY12/13**  
**\$235,500 FY13/14**  
**\$525,400 FY14/15**  
**\$525,400 FY15/16**

#### Assumptions:

- In FY'05, 598 inmates received GEDs and 1,765 received vocational certificates. Of this number, approximately 60 percent would be eligible for reduced sentence (2,363 inmates x .60 = 1,418 inmates). Certain offenses require the inmate to serve 100 percent of the sentence and Class E and Class D offenses would not serve sufficient time to actually reduce time served.
- The offering of educational and vocational programs is discretionary with the Department. According to the Department, these programs are operating at full capacity, and there would be no increase in the number of eligible inmates who obtain a qualifying educational certificate in order to receive a reduced sentence.
- The impact of reduced sentences is weighted over a 10-year period to account for varying length of sentences and release dates. According to the Department, 14.5 percent of the eligible inmates will have a sentence reduction in the first year; 14.5 percent in the second year; 10 percent in the third year; 10 percent in the fourth year; 4.5 percent in the fifth year; 4.5 percent in the sixth year; 6.5 percent in the seventh

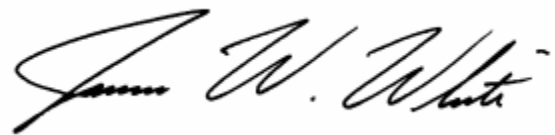
year; 6.5 percent in the eighth year; 14.5 percent in the ninth year; and 14.5 percent in the tenth year. Savings from reduced periods of incarceration will not be fully realized for 10 years.

- The reduction in expenditures would be reflected in the cost to the Department to house State felons in county jails. When offenders are released from prison, those inmates are replaced with state felons from the county jails. The housing per diem for the county jails for FY 2005-2006 is \$42.59. This per diem has varied between \$40.64 and \$45.25 during FY 1999 – 2005, with a peak of \$45.25 in FY 2001-2002. Due to this variation, the per diem in this estimate has not been adjusted for inflation.
- The savings in current dollars from sentence reductions will be as follows (total eligible inmates x percent of eligible inmates x 60 days credit x per diem):
  - Year 1 -  $1,418 \times 14.5\% \times 60 \times \$42.59 = \$525,415.79$
  - Year 2 -  $1,418 \times 14.5\% \times 60 \times \$42.59 = \$525,415.79$
  - Year 3 -  $1,418 \times 10\% \times 60 \times \$42.59 = \$362,355.72$
  - Year 4 -  $1,418 \times 10\% \times 60 \times \$42.59 = \$362,355.72$
  - Year 5 -  $1,418 \times 4.5\% \times 60 \times \$42.59 = \$163,060.07$
  - Year 6 -  $1,418 \times 4.5\% \times 60 \times \$42.59 = \$163,060.07$
  - Year 7 -  $1,418 \times 6.5\% \times 60 \times \$42.59 = \$235,531.22$
  - Year 8 -  $1,418 \times 6.5\% \times 60 \times \$42.59 = \$235,531.22$
  - Year 9 -  $1,418 \times 14.5\% \times 60 \times \$42.59 = \$525,415.79$
  - Year 10 -  $1,418 \times 14.5\% \times 60 \times \$42.59 = \$525,415.79$

Total Savings For a Ten Year Period: \$3,623,557.18

### **CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director